

CRS Board Elections 2022 – Positioning Statement

Position	President-elect
Name	Twan Lammers, PhD, DSc
Born	30.08.1979, Vlodrop, the Netherlands
Work	Professor of Nanomedicine and Theranostics Institute for Experimental Molecular Imaging RWTH Aachen University Clinic, Aachen, Germany
@CRS	Director-at-Large, YSC Liaison, Secretary, LC President



Drug delivery science has a long and successful history. It started off in the early 1900's, with Paul Ehrlich's magic bullet. It exponentially grew in the second half of the 20th century, with more and more controlled release formulations for medical use, as well as for agricultural, veterinary and cosmetic applications. In the first two decades of the 21th century, the popularity of delivery science increased even more, alongside advances in biology, medicine, nanotechnology and material science. And then, in 2020 - prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic - it moved into the limelight of academic, industrial and societal attention, by enabling next-generation solutions for vaccine formulation and production.

The Controlled Release Society (CRS) has been the home of drug delivery science since 1978. As such, it has a longer history than I have. For a good proportion of my life, however, CRS has been a part of me. And vice versa. When I started working on drug delivery to tumors at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg in 2002, I gradually got adsorbed and absorbed by the CRS. The majority of papers I initially read were in the Journal of Controlled Release and Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews. In 2005, my first research paper was therefore intuitively submitted to JCR, and it ended up being published as is, with very kind reviewer comments, and eventually with pretty decent citation scores. Following this JCR paper, I started receiving talk and conference invitations, in many cases from people involved in CRS. Looking back, this initial CRS-JCR link really propelled things for me, in multiple different regards.

The CRS Annual Meetings have adsorbed and absorbed me. I vividly recall the first meetings. Fairly new to the field, I attended everything. From the 7:00 AM get-up-get-educated sessions and the meet-the-luminaries sessions organized by the YSC, to the plenary and parallel sessions, and the roundtables, industry and poster sessions. I ran from one session to the other, and thoroughly enjoyed all of them. I recall getting both excited and somewhat lost over and over again. Thinking "Wow, I really want to work on this topic", and "Waw, I really want to work with this person", to "Ah, to make a real-life impact on patient care, I have to think about X, liaise with Y, and start planning Z". As a certain idea or approach will otherwise never make it to a product. Here, X, Y and Z are essential parts which I take from every CRS meeting. And the sum of them expressed as: $\Sigma = (XYZ)^3 = \sqrt{\text{CRS}}$.

Being an active member of CRS will adsorb, absorb and profit you too. For many different reasons. There are interest-groups and fellowship-programs for all career stages, and sub-groups for specific geographical regions. In the last few years, both the focus groups (FG) and the local chapters (LC) have steadily increased in both quantity and quality. The young scientists committee (YSC) organizes ever more career-boosting events at and prior to the annual meeting, as well as throughout the year. FG, LC and YSC activities are very well appreciated, and they are key assets of CRS membership.

As president-elect, I will make sure that CRS will keep on defining the future of drug delivery science. And I will ensure to do that both effectively and successfully, and diversely and all-inclusively. We will continue to create lots of added value, for all of our members: academia and industry; black, white and grey; and junior, mid-career and senior. We will bolster already established activities and awards, and push forward to explore new avenues, such as the CRS educate program and the CRS PhD thesis award. We will promote and expand FG, LC and YSC initiatives, and consolidate and refine constructions to propel interactions between academics, industrial scientists, regulatory experts, and professionals in consumer and diversified products. At the annual meeting and throughout the year. Last but not least, we will keep on organizing great annual meetings, with ample opportunity for academic and industrial exchange, for education and for networking, as well as with tons of great science and lots of fun.